

MLGW's 2019 "Water Mane" Poster Art Contest

Aquifer Preservation Concepts

"Water Mane" is the newest MLGW Power League Superhero. Water Mane's quest is to preserve the aquifer - Memphis Water Source - for future generations. Some key aquifer protection concepts are:

- 1. Memphis water is extremely pure as it comes from about 125 underground wells located below the surface of the Earth.**

The water extracted from these wells only requires a basic process of aeration, which eliminates iron and dissolved gases. Nevertheless, after the water is directly extracted from the Memphis aquifer, it goes through processes of filtration, chlorination and fluoridation, all required by law for public drinking water, which makes our water even cleaner, healthier and better tasting.

- 2. Memphis water has been filtered for thousands of years!**

The Memphis Aquifer is a natural underground reservoir located from 350 to 1,100 feet below ground surface. It is a part of a larger system of aquifers extending to a depth of 2,600 feet. The aquifers are composed of layers of clay, sand and gravel that act as natural filters and remove many impurities from the water.

- 3. Memphis is one of the largest cities in the world with a water supply that relies exclusively on artesian wells.**

The wells connected into this system are known as "artesian wells" because they draw the naturally purified water to the surface by releasing the built-up pressure which forces the water up the well like liquid through a straw. After the water is collected and processed, MLGW's Water Quality Assurance Laboratory ensures our water's quality and safety through a battery of tests, close to 40,000 tests per year.

- 4. There are a number of ways we can help protect our water supply:**

- Never put anything down a storm drain, wisely dispose of household and lawn/garden chemicals. Never pour hazardous wastes on the ground, in a storm drain or in an indoor drain. Consider using non-toxic alternatives to toxic household and lawn chemicals.
- Washing your car at a car wash prevents the soaps, polishes, waxes and other chemicals from entering the storm drain system.
- Think before you flush! Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to our drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. The Memphis Police Department has several Prescription Drugs Take-Back Locations at Memphis Police precincts, Shelby County Sheriff precincts and specific Walgreens and CVS locations.
- Recycle used motor oil. Many auto stores and gas stations will accept used motor oil. Two gallons of used motor oil can be reprocessed into fuel and provide enough electricity to run the average household for about 24 hours.